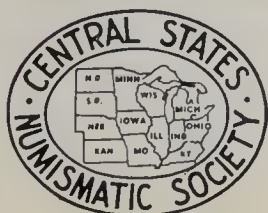


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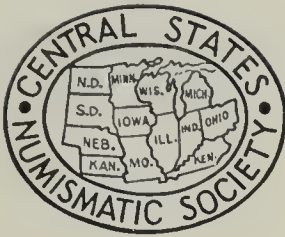
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the centinel

Official Publication/Central States Numismatic Society

VOL. 30, NO. 3

FALL, 1982



Secretary-Treasurer Marge Owen was in charge of the Central States Numismatic Society table at the June Convention of the Indiana State Numismatic Association in Indianapolis.

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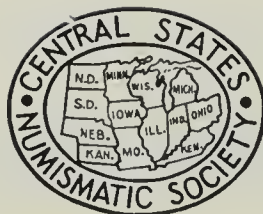
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Address all correspondence regarding *The Centinel* to the Editor, except changes of address, which should be directed to the Secretary-Treasurer.

A MESSAGE FROM THE

SECRETARY



And I thought the Spring and Fall seasons were the busy ones in this hobby! This summer has been as hectic as any I can remember. Shortly after our meeting in Cedar Rapids, I attended the Nebraska State Convention in Lincoln. It seems that I almost had time to catch my breath and it was time to go to Indianapolis for their State meeting.

More recently, I have been to Boston to ANA and to Peoria for the ILLNA. These trips have been most rewarding to me, and I hope to Central States. The people have been most hospitable and I have met a lot of members that I only have recognized by name before.

I do feel that these outings are advantageous to our organization, for two reasons. The first is that the local people know that we aren't just interested in them when it comes time for them to work for us — we care enough about them to just drop in and say

“hello.” Also, the good public relations just can't be ignored.

It isn't that I spend all my time signing up members — mostly, I talk about the Club and try to persuade the people that we would be a good organization to be affiliated with. If there is an up-coming State meeting that you would like to have CSNS attend, just drop either Kurt or I a note. We will make every effort for someone from the Board to be there.

Now, I have some good news and some that may not be so good. The good news is that the Board decided it wasn't necessary at this time to raise dues. They will remain at \$3.00, with Junior dues at \$1.00. However, with the change in our fiscal year, as approved by the Board, you will be actually only getting ten months membership this time around. To those of you who have received your new cards, you will notice that I have crossed out the date — “4-30” that appears on the right side. This is an economy measure — I wanted to use up the cards on hand.

The new cards will only have the year to which you are paid. That is, your dues will be due and payable on March 1st, instead of May 1. However, you can still wait and pay dues at Convention time, as has been done before, and I will wait until after that time to send notices to those who haven't paid.

As I write this, the Board is preparing to hold its interim meeting in Dayton, Ohio, I'll report to you in the next

issue of **The Centinel** on any important decisions reached there.

Your Board of Governors customarily holds its interim meeting in the Fall. If your club hosts a show during

that time of year and would like the Board to meet in conjunction with your event, please let me know.

— Marjorie M. Owen
Secretary-Treasurer

Milwaukee Club To Host State Convention

Bob Krueger, President of Milwaukee's South Shore Coin Club, has announced that the Numismatists of Wisconsin 23rd Annual Coin Show and Convention has been awarded to the Milwaukee club and will be hosted by them at the MECCA Convention Center on March 25-27, 1983.

According to Krueger, South Shore hosted coin shows have always been enthusiastically received by the numismatic community. Plans for the 1983 Numismatists of Wisconsin event include a full day American Numismatic Association Certification Service Seminar on Thursday, March 24, the day prior to the opening of the show. ANACS will also hold a shorter introductory seminar during the show itself and will staff an authentication table during show hours.

Other educational activities planned for the show include a meeting of the Jefferson Nickel Club with a program by Adolf Weiss; a joint NECA-CONE meeting with a program on error coins by Leonard Roosmalen; and a Young Numismatists meeting hosted by Florence Schook, a member of the ANA and CSNS Board of Governors and coordinator of YN activities for ANA.

The South Shore Coin Club will be celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 1983 and club president Krueger promises that the South Shore hosted NOW Show will be one of the finest and highest quality numismatic events in the history of Wisconsin.

Dealers interested in bourse space at the March 25-27 show should contact Krueger at 3159 South 13th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215.

A Letter to the Editor

As an exhibitor, I felt it was time to say thank you to Central States as an organization that still recognizes and appreciates exhibits. The educational values of numismatics shouldn't be completely overshadowed by monetary interests.

I exhibit to share what I have learned with others and to interest the public in coins. But my own selfish reason is for the wonderful friendships I have made. The greatest asset CSNS has is its members. I would not be exhibiting

now if not for people like Helen Sedo, Don Hudson, Frank Russell, Jack Hug-gins, Marjorie Owen, and many, many more. They all made me feel welcome when I started taking part in Central States Numismatic Society activities.

The number of exhibits has been dropping over the years and I want to encourage all the potential exhibitors out there to get busy and start working on your exhibit for the 1983 CSNS in Dearborn, Michigan. Give Helen Sedo and all of us a chance to make you feel welcome, too!

Sincerely yours, Vickie Klausch

PRESIDENTIAL

COMMENTARY

Many of our members took the time over the last few months to write and share their opinions about our Society and the directions they would like to see it move in the future. Thank you for the interest you show in our organization. We have one of the strongest regional numismatic groups in the country and this strength is largely a reflection of our member's ongoing interest in the affairs of CSNS.

The 48th Annual Coin Show of the Milwaukee Numismatic Society is now history. Show Chairman Francis Wilford did an outstanding job October 8-10 at the helm of this well established Fall event. Rumor has it that he was assisted by 86-year-old A. P. "Del" Bertschy, Bourse Chairman of the MNS Show, and a long-time member of the Central States Board of Governors.

Collectors in our region have several other outstanding shows to look forward to this Fall, including the Heart of America Show in Kansas City and the Michigan State Numismatic Society Show in Dearborn, both over the Thanksgiving weekend. Members of

the Central States Numismatic Society play a prominent roll in both of these shows.

I've asked our Editor to expand the Show Calendar feature of **The Centinel** to include show listings up to 24 months in advance. This should prove useful to show sponsors in avoiding conflicting dates, but can be successful only if show chairmen will take the time to inform **The Centinel** of their show dates as soon as they become available.

This issue of **The Centinel** contains the up-to-date Constitution and By-Laws of CSNS. These documents comprise the framework within which your Board of Governors must work in guiding the affairs of your Society. I urge all the members to read and become familiar with these rules.

In closing, I hope every member will always feel free to be in touch with your opinions about CSNS. This is, after all, your organization, and the Officers and Board need your input to govern it in accordance with your wishes.

— Kurt R. Krueger, President

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California Firms Plan Paper Money Sale

Terry Vavra and Jerry Briggs, partners in Briggs Coin and Currency and Inland Empire Rare Coin Company, Riverside, Calif., have announced that catalogues will soon be available for their second mail bid sale of rare currency.

"We follow a philosophy in our sales of having a wide range of material, always conservatively graded, to meet the needs of everyone from the beginner to the advanced numismatist," said Vavra.

Briggs added, "There will be plenty of items in the \$75 and under range, but the sale will also include some outstanding rarities which should spark fierce bidding."

One of the highlights of the sale will be a \$100 1882 Brown Back national note on Butte, Montana. "Terry and I are still collectors at heart, and it's hard for us to express what a thrill it is to offer an item like the Butte Brown Back," said an enthusiastic Briggs.

Another outstanding national will be a \$5 1902 note on Orland, California in VF/XF, the highest grade known to the cataloguers.

Also included are several rare large size notes actually autographed by the Treasury Department officials whose engraved signatures appear on the notes.

Briggs told *The Centinel*, "Autographed large size notes are very scarce items, and to have ones of the high quality consigned in this sale will

be a real opportunity.

"We'll also have one of the nicest uncirculated examples of the rare Series 'B' 1875 \$5 Legal Tender Notes that I've ever seen, as well as a tough \$2 1918 'Battleship' note with a three digit serial number."

In addition to a World's Fair section containing many attractive collectibles from the Columbian, St. Louis, and Panama - Pacific Expositions, the sale will include over 80 lots of the ever-popular obsolete currency, many from elusive Wisconsin and Michigan issuers.

A strong section of Continental and Colonial currency is included, as well as a broad array of national bank notes, large and small size type notes, and fractional currency.

Catalogues, including the list of prices realized, are available for \$4 if ordered prior to the January 31, 1983 closing date of the sale, or \$10 after that date. A limited number of catalogues from the first sale are still available to CSNS members at \$10 and may be ordered from Inland Empire Rare Coins, 6893 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, California 92506.

Briggs and Vavra plan to conduct two mail bid sales per year and can be contacted at the Riverside address or by calling (714) 684-7473 to discuss consignments. According to Vavra, "Our sales have one of the lowest commission rates for sellers in the industry, and no buyers charge."

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CONTACT

A. P. "DEL" BERTSCHY
3939 NORTH MURRAY AVENUE
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Mali's Paper Money Reflects Its History

by Victor C. Seibert



Bank of Mali — 500 Franc Note

In the past, interest in African numismatics, aside from South Africa, Egypt and Abyssinia, has been practically non-existent. Dealer's stocks included few samples; exhibitor's displays at coin shows avoided this continent's coins and paper money; and even the largest numismatic libraries lacked detailed African coin and paper money materials.

But Africa is entering the modern world and this will increase interest in its numismatics. Neither nature nor man, geography or history, have been kind to Africa. Why? Perhaps because its development has been delayed by some of the following factors: (a) Adventurer's landings were discouraged by the coastal mountain ranges. (b) Inroads to the interior were blocked by the numerous river falls and cata-

raets. (c) Three great desert regions' blinding sandstorms halted settlement at the desert edge. (d) Sea currents drove early ships from the shores. (e) Dense forests with fierce animals and poisonous snakes formed formidable barriers. (f) Slave traders drained the continent's most intelligent and physically strong natives. (g) Endemic and epidemic diseases snuffed out explorers' lives and left survivors in precarious health.

And yet today, through the efforts of groups such as UNESCO, we learn that the continent is rich in religious practices, ancestral lore, native rituals and earthly riches. Many of these are reflected on the coins and paper money issued by the many nations created in Africa since the closing of World War I.

The early records indicate that the Africans used cotton strips, gold, twists of iron, cones and bars of salt, and cowrie shells as their first money. But as years passed by they, too, followed the pattern established by other nations and began to issue coins and paper money in formal fashion.

To illustrate the interesting facts concerning the life of the African native, some paper money issued by the Republic of Mali will be used. The images are artistic, colorful, and authentic.

The 1000 franc note is undated but is usually listed as belonging to the 1971 - 1973 period. Why was it left undated? Among the Mali native tribes time is not numbered by the calendar, but rather it is figured in such natural phenomenon as rains and droughts, movement of men and beasts and river floods. The hours of the day are defined by such concrete acts as: time to milk the cows, time to let the cattle out to pasture.

The structure image on the note is indicitive of the modern improve-

ment made in the water supply in Mali. This improvement was the result of the Tuareg Uprising in 1963 - 1964 which was brought about by the lack of water and ended in catastrophic losses of cattle.

The native is dressed in the garb of the average pastoral resident. In the upper border on the reverse side are twin characters that are symbolic of the native's religious belief that every person is a double. When a person goes to sleep, his double comes out and retraces the path taken during the wakened hours. The double reenacts the activities and struggles with the forces of good and evil. The person's personality resides in the double. The problem in life is to merge with the double so that there will be only one of you.

The zig-zag patterns in the small blocks of weaving samples on the borders of the note are indicative of the native's belief of life's problems — that they never follow a straight pattern but rather come in zig-zag fashion. They even lay out and culti-



Bank of Mali — 1000 Franc Note



Bank of Mali — 1000 Franc Note

vate their fields in the zig-zag fashion. The weaving is done on the 8-piece wooden framed loom. The four vertical struts represent earth, air, water, and fire. The four cross struts represent south, east, north, and west.

On the reverse side above and below the words "Banque Centrale Du Mali" are two sets of sixteen miniature triangles. The number "16" is very dear to the Malian natives as it represents the 16 clans into which the Mandingo (Malinke) were divided. They were the ancestors of the Mali people and reached their most powerful time from 1210 to 1230. The people of Mali are very fond of their ancestors and can trace their forefathers for dozens of generations.

The end borders contain the images of turtles. To the Dagon tribes in Mali the turtle replaces the patriarch of each family during his absence and so is highly revered by the tribe.

The village image on the reverse side of the note is smybolie of the clay-built towns around the Bandragara Cliffs south of Timbuktau. It was to

these cliffs that the Dagon tribe withdrew hundreds of years ago and they were able to weather every attack by other tribes. There these one-quarter million people today have their own distinctive life that has changed little, if any, throughout he centuries. If the city could be seen from above it would be observed that it is laid out in the shape of a human figure lying on its back.

The metal smith is at one end of the village and represents the head; shrines at the other end represent the feet; the huts of the non-pregnant women off to the east and to the west represent the hands; the family houses in the center represent the chest; the cone-shaped shrine at the southern end is the male reproductive represent-ative and the holed-stone near it represents the female. The towns are built in pairs; one sliightly higher than the other. They symbolize the upper and lower classes of people, the water and the drought, the heaven and the earth.

Each house has an open space in front of it and this represents the sky

and the shrine in it represents the sun. The houses are built in layers of clay. They build the clay to a height of two-thirds of a cubit. Then they leave it to dry and repeat the process until it is finished. The ceilings are made of beams and reeds. They are mostly in the shape of a cupola or that of the hump of a camel. The floors are of earth and mixed with sand.

Even the interiors of the homes are built in symbolic fashion. The great center room is the belly, the kitchen on the north end is the head, the two hearths are the eyes, the two rows of store rooms on each side are the arms, the two towers at the ends are the hands and feet. The great crushing stone in the center symbolizes the reproductive organs where the grain is crushed into meal.

The watermarked circle portrays a political leader.

The 500 franc note shows a bulldozer clearing land and is illustrating the strides that Mali is making to improve the pastoral life. The turtle, the double figures and the 16 diamonds below the

words "Banque Centrale Du Mali" are also found on this note.

The camel caravan is a common method of transportation in Mali. Sometimes as many as a thousand camels are in a single caravan that makes the markets on Mondays. The cargo usually consists of blocks of salt weighing 100 pounds each, woven goods, cotton, rice, millet and honey.

The hand carved wooden masks are a very important part of the native's religious and ceremonial rituals. The mask is used to change the wearer from a human being to become an ancestor or a part of divinity. The disc-shaped headdress and ornamental scarifications on the forehead and temples represent the rays of light protected by the gods. The zig-zag lines around the face involve rain — the symbol of life.

Although there will be many nations of Africa issuing paper money in the future, most of them will have images that reflect the deep ancestral belief of these peoples. And so much can be learned about the lives of the natives of Africa from their numismatic issues.



Bank of Mali — 500 Franc Note

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1984 — April 26 - 29 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Chairman: A. P. "Del" Bertschy, 3939 N. Murray Ave., Shorewood, Wis. 53211

1985 — Dates to be announced Minneapolis, Minnesota

1986 — Dates to be announced Milwaukee, Wisconsin

1987 — May 7 - 10 St. Louis, Missouri
Chairman: Ron Horstman, 6137 Victoria Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63139

NOTE TO CLUB OFFICIALS: Interested in hosting a future CSNS Convention? It is not too early to begin thinking of the future! Submit your letter of invitation to the CSNS Secretary-Treasurer at your earliest convenience. Your request will receive the prompt attention of the Officers and Board of Governors.

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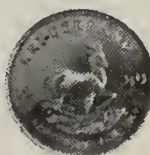
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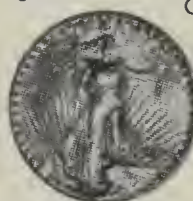
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B.U. Washingtons (1932-1964)	\$ 90
Proof Washingtons (1957-1964)	\$ 140

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THE SKYRIDE OF 1933

by Gerald Johnson — WNWA



1933 World's Fair Rolled Cent

From the numismatic purist who cherishes his MS-65's, down to the lowly coin collector who grubs thru dealers junk boxes for G-VG's, the mention of elongated coins brings a flicker of recognition, invariably the recollection of the Century of Progress 1933 Sky Ride rolled out cents.

The many varieties and popularity of this rolled out cent has made it by far the most common elongated from the big Chicago Fair of 1933, and perhaps the most common of all rolled out cents. Common as they are, the rolled outs have a story to tell that is "uncommon," that of a 1.4 million dollar fair attraction back in the days when a million dollars was the impossible dream.

The sky ride itself looked like a large suspension bridge, with two massive towers one third of a mile apart, supporting the "rocket ride," a sight-seeing cabin cruising between the towers at a leisurely six miles per hour. There were ten of these 36 passenger

"Rocket Cars," each driven by its own motor, meaning 360 people could view the big fair at one time, but this represented only a part of the over all "Sky Ride."

The sky ride towers, which were higher than the rocket ride, afforded a fantastic view of the city of Chicago, and on a clear day the stouthearted could see four surrounding states! There were four elevators in each tower, which hauled fair visitors up a full 64 stories, at the time the highest points in Chicago.

The large number of varieties of rolled cents depicting the 1933 Skyride indicate the \$1,400,000 structure was well used in 1933 and 1934. But like most of the "Century of Progress" buildings and fairgrounds, the "Sky Ride" was torn down at the conclusion of the 1933-34 gala.

While the origin of rolled coins is somewhat uncertain, rolled out coins were popularized in the United States by the World Columbian Exposition at

Chicago in 1893. The process was fascinating: the coin was inserted into the machine, wheels turned, and out came a souvenir, with the coin design still visible on the non-struck side, and an interesting Worlds Fair remembrance on the other side.

The machinery for rolling coins was simple, yet complex. Two steel cylinders pressed the coin into a pancake through pure gear pressure, one cylinder had an incused die into which the planchet (cent) was "squeezed," leaving a raised design. The complexity lies in the length of the planchet, thickness of the finished product, and amount of pressure in relation to design.

In the years between the great Chicago fairs of 1892 and the Century of Progress Exposition held in 1933, rolled out coins had become a very



popular souvenir, and the coin rollers were primed and ready for the second Chicago Expo.

In her excellent 1965 reference book, "The Elongated Collector," Dottie Dow lists 156 types of rolled coins from the Century of Progress Expo alone, including 28 distinct types of Skyride Tokens.

A few of the coin roller machines survived the scrap heaps of the depression, and in the late 1970's a mild revival of coin rolling took place, but the quality of the recent rolled coins is only fair. Prohibitive costs made deep cut cylinder dies impractical during the 1970's, and most of the rolled coins after 1950 are rather bland when compared to the artistic beauty of that coin rollers heyday, the Century of Progress Exposition of 1933-34.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The persons named below have applied for membership in the Society. Each applicant will become a member in 30 days, unless a written objection to his or her application is received by the Secretary-Treasurer prior to that date.

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

3870	Don W. Harden	Cedar Rapids, Iowa
3924	Maury Peters	Lawrence, Kansas
3925	Alan R. Johnson	Lawrence, Kansas
3926	Chuck O'Donnell	Williamstown, New Jersey
3927	Robert L. Hendershott	Clearwater, Florida
3928	A. A. Armstrong Jr. M. D.	Scottsbluff, Nebraska
3929	William Brieske	Saginaw, Michigan
3930	Esther Zabowski	Warren, Michigan
J-3931	David Massey	Chamblee, Georgia
3932	Jim Speckman	Port Byron, Illinois

3933	Sandra Schwartz	Englewood, Ohio
3934	Michael Alster	Rockville Centre, New York
3935	Jerry Briggs	Riverside, California
3936	Terry Vavra	Riverside, California

LIFE MEMBER APPLICANTS

289	Kenneth D. Cortese	Altoona, Pennsylvania
290	Jack Reames	Vandalia, Ohio
291	Barbara Goldfreed	Chicago, Illinois
292	Robert C. Korosec	West Allis, Wisconsin
293	Michael Aron	Granada Hills, California

LAST CALL

Many of the members whose name appears below have been unable to receive their current dues notice due to lack of up-to-date mailing address in the Secretary's files. If your name appears below, your membership can be kept in full force by sending your current address and dues of \$3.00 to CSNS, c/o Marge Owen, P. O. Box 65336, West Des Moines, Iowa 50265.

James Andel
Kenneth Andree
Dr. Richard Appel
Scott Austin
Bruce A. Bauer
Ed Bishop
Donald A. Bonney
Marlin D. Brenddel
Nick Carter
Mitchell Cole
Charles W. Cossett
Freeman L. Craig
Osborne B. Dahl
Chris Daley
Larry Dillon
Delores Dumond
Steve Ellis
George B. Fuss, Jr.
H. Pete Glovinsky
James Grady
Sherry Hakenson
Jim Harris
Mark E. Hays
Joan Hildebrand
L. S. Hilligoss
Chris Holt
Chuck Holt
John J. Janyes
Scott E. Yaynes
Mark W. Jervis
Curtis Johnson
Luke Johnson

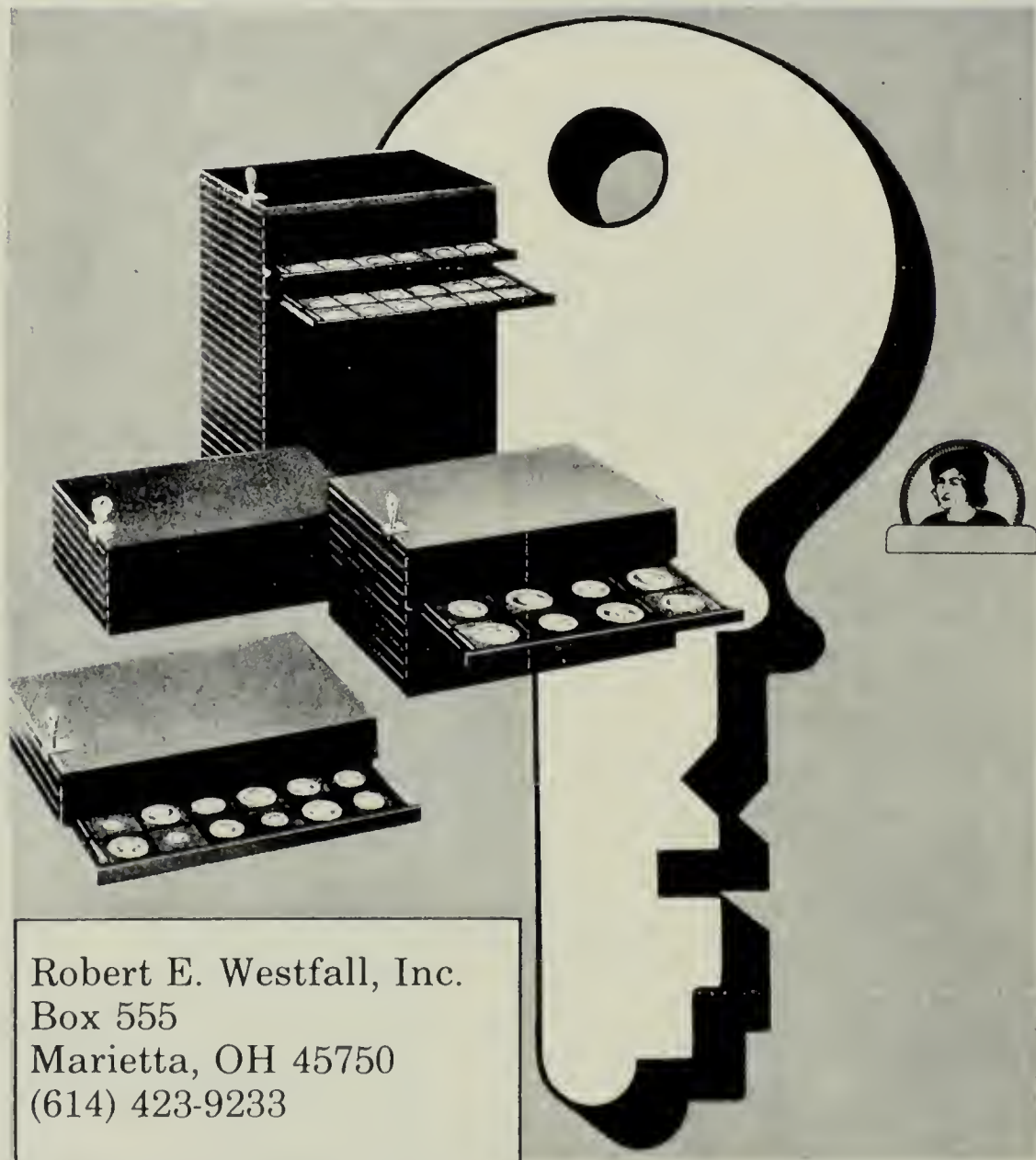
Paul L. Longbottom
Donna Marz
Victor Mattern
Palmer H. Mathistad
Robert Mitchell
Lee S. Minshull
Guy Mitchell
Dennis Muffler
Andy J. Oppmann
Alice Penzes
Steve Penzes
Richard A. Phelps
Randall L. Pollock
Dennis K. Pozniak
Bill N. Raski
Wayne Samuelson
Layne Samuelson
Brooke Samuelson
David Schwartz
Marilyn Schwartz
Stephen Schwartz
Earnie Shavers
C. E. Sheaffer
H. S. Monte Sherwin
Bruce Smith
Harold J. Smith
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Rick Sundman
William Swoger
Charles E. Wadding, Jr.
Karl Wildfang

(Continued On Page 36)

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CENTRAL STATES NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

ORGANIZED APRIL 23, 1939

Incorporated under the Laws of the State of Illinois, May 16, 1955

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

NAME, AREA AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be Central States Numismatic Society.

Section 2. The principal activities of this Society shall be conducted in the following Central States: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Section 3. The objects of this Society shall be to promote the science of numismatics, to aid its members in the study, acquisition, and exhibition of numismatic material and to co-operate with all numismatic organizations, including individuals, in the science of numismatics.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICERS

Section 1. Any person of good moral character who has attained the age of eighteen years shall be eligible for regular membership. Any person of good moral character who has attained the age of eleven years and not attained the age of eighteen years shall be eligible for Junior Membership. Any Regular Member shall be eligible for Life Membership upon fulfilling the requirements prescribed in the By-Laws of the Society.

Section 2. The Officers of this Society shall be a President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Immediate Past President, and Board of Governors.

ARTICLE III

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by a two thirds majority of those present and voting after notice to the membership as required by the By-Laws.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

SOCIETY YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal year of this Society shall be March 1st of one year and including the last day of February of the next year.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1. The Society shall have three classes of membership: Regular Members, Life Members, and Junior Members.

Section 2. Regular Members and Junior Members shall be carried on the roster on a yearly basis as defined in Article I, Section 1 of these By-Laws.

Section 3. Applications for membership in each class shall be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary-Treasurer. Applicants for Regular Membership and Junior Membership shall be proposed by a Regular Member or Life Member in good standing.

Section 4. Duly organized clubs within the prescribed area of the Central States shall be eligible for Regular Membership and Life Membership.

Section 5. Business firms shall not be eligible for membership as such, but individual members of business firms may become members if they meet the requirements of these By-Laws.

Section 6. The Annual Dues of the Society year ending the last day of February shall be \$3.00 for Regular Members and \$1.00 for Junior Members. Dues received with applications for new members between January 1st and the last day of February of any year shall be considered as full payment for the period ending the last day of February of the following year. The Life Membership fee shall be \$100.00 and must accompany application.

Section 7. Membership applications, together with the proper amount of dues, shall be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, who shall cause a notice of the name of each applicant to be published in The Centinel. If no written objection to an applicant's admission is received by the Secretary-Treasurer by the 20th day of the calendar month succeeding the calendar month in which such an issue is transmitted to the members, the applicant shall be deemed admitted to membership. If such written objection is received by the Secretary-Treasurer, he or she shall advise the applicant in writing of the nature of the objection and request an answer thereto. The Secretary-Treasurer shall refer the applicant's answer, if any, together with any other available information relating thereto, to the Governing Board for consideration and action. The Governing Board may either accept or reject such application, in which event the Secretary-Treasurer shall notify the applicant of the Board's decision. In the event of rejection, the applicant's dues payment shall be refunded. Each applicant for membership shall be entitled to the proper form of membership card signed by both the President and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 8. Membership dues shall be payable in advance. The Secretary-Treasurer shall send a dues notice during the month of February or March to those members who have not paid their dues for the current year. If not paid by September 30, the Secretary-Treasurer shall inform such members by mail at their last known address, that unless their current year's dues are paid, their resignation accepted, good cause shown to the satisfaction of the Secretary or knowledge of their death has been received by the Secretary on or before October 31st of the then current year, they will then automatically forfeit their membership, and their names published in the next issue of The Centinel as having forfeited their membership for non-payment of dues.

Section 9. The Secretary-Treasurer may re-instate any member expelled from membership for non-payment of dues after investigating and approving such member's conduct prior to re-instatement and upon receipt from said member of the current year's dues. A new membership number shall be assigned to such member. Such member at his option shall be entitled to his former membership number upon paying all of his unpaid dues for the period prior to his re-instatement. If such current year's dues are paid between January 1st and the last day of February of any year, they shall be considered as full payment of dues for the period ending April 30th of the following year. Resignations in writing by members in good standing may be accepted by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 10. Any member violating any provision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society, committing any unfair or unethical act in his dealings with others, unjustly defaming the character of any other member, interfering with activities of the Society, committing a criminal offense, engaging in conduct unbecoming to a member or engaging in conduct prejudicial to the welfare of the Society shall be subject to expulsion or other disciplinary action as hereinafter provided. Proceedings for such expulsion or other disciplinary action shall be initiated by written charges signed by the person making them. Such charges, with particulars thereof, shall be filed with the Secretary-Treasurer, who shall thereupon mail a written copy or summary thereof in an envelope with postage prepaid directed to the accused member at his last address furnished by him to the Society. The accused member shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to enter a written defense to such charges. The matter shall then be referred to the Governing Board which shall determine the case under such rules and regulations as it may adopt. The Governing Board may dismiss such charges, or it may censure, suspend or expel the accused member. It may cause the result of its action to be published in the official magazine of the Society.

Section 11. Whenever the Governing Board is informed (through sources deemed by the Board to be reliable) that a member has been indicted or otherwise prosecuted for the alleged commission of a criminal offense, the Governing Board may suspend such member pending the final determination of such proceedings. In the event that the Governing Board (through sources deemed by the Board to be reliable) is informed that a member has pleaded guilty to the commission of a criminal offense or has been judicially convicted of committing a criminal offense, the Board may expel such member unless an appeal is pending from the conviction upon which the expulsion was based and the Board has been informed thereof. A

member may be suspended or expelled pursuant to this Section 12, whether or not written charges are brought against him and without compliance with the requirements of the preceding Section 11. The Governing Board may cause the result of its action to be published in the official magazine of the Society.

ARTICLE III

OFFICERS, GOVERNORS, GOVERNING BOARD

Section 1. The Society shall have a President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor, Legal Counsel, Immediate Past President, and a maximum of thirteen Governors, all of whom shall constitute a Governing Board. A vacancy during the two-year term of any officer, governor or the Editor may be filled by the appointment of a majority of the Governing Board.

Section 2. The Governing Board shall be generally responsible for the conduct of the affairs of the Society and shall have such other duties and powers as are herein provided.

Section 3. The Officers shall have the usual duties delegated to their respective offices and shall serve without compensation except as herein after provided.

Section 4. No debts shall be contracted in the name of the Society and no funds of the Society shall be expended without the approval of a majority of the Governing Board except that the Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor may pay and be reimbursed for the normal expenses incidental to their respective offices, and each committee chairman may pay and be reimbursed for up to \$50.00 of the normal expenses incidental to his committee in any Society year, in each case without such approval. Such expenses shall be respectively accounted for in the reports of the Secretary-Treasurer, Editor and each such Chairman at the end of each Society year. In addition to such reimbursement for expenses, the Secretary-Treasurer and the Editor shall be paid such compensation as may be approved by the Governing Board.

Section 5. The President in 1983 and each odd numbered year thereafter, in the last issue of **The Centinel** published prior to October 1st, shall issue a call for nominations of officers and governors. All nominations shall be made in writing to the Secretary during October of said year and the election shall be held during the following year. Nominations may be made only by Regular or Life Members in good standing at the time of submitting the nominations. No member may nominate himself/herself. The Secretary shall promptly write to each nominee notifying him or her of such nomination and requesting his or her written acceptance or refusal thereof. A nominee's acceptance must be received by the Secretary on or before December 1st of said year. No nominee may accept a nomination for more than one elective office in any one election. The Legal Counsel and the Editor may not be candidates for Governor.

Section 6. The Secretary shall cause a list of nominations and the actions of the nominees thereon to be published in the latest issue of **The Centinel** mailed to the members at least 45 days prior to the first membership meeting of the election year convention. The Secretary shall obtain and publish

in the last mentioned issue a biography, not exceeding 200 words in length, of each nominee who has so accepted a nomination, which biography shall include a record of his or her services to the Society and to numismatics in general.

Section 7. The Secretary shall cause the names of all such nominees who have so accepted to be printed, in the order of receipt of their acceptances, on official ballots and shall cause one of such ballots to be mailed (at least 40 days prior to the first membership meeting of the election year convention) to each member in good standing, together with an envelope marked "Official Ballot" and addressed to the Secretary. Each envelope shall bear a different number, but the number selected shall be within the sole discretion of the Secretary. Only Regular Members and Life Members shall insert his or her ballot in said numbered envelope and seal and mail the same with postage prepaid. Such envelope must be postmarked at least twenty days prior to the date of the first membership meeting of the election year convention in order for the ballot therein to be counted. The Secretary shall retain all sealed ballots unopened and, on the first day of the convention, shall deliver said ballots and a list of the envelope numbers selected to an Election Committee to be appointed by the President.

The Election Committee shall consist of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members of the Society who are not candidates for any contested office. Such committee shall tabulate only those ballots that are included in envelopes bearing numbers corresponding to those selected by the Secretary. In instances where more than one envelope bears the same number, the Committee shall endeavor, by an inspection of the envelopes and the ballots therein, or by other means, to determine which ballots are falsified. The Committee shall cause all ballots, all envelopes and a report of the votes cast for each candidate to be delivered to the Secretary promptly following the tabulation.

Section 8. The candidate or candidates who have accepted nominations as aforesaid and who receive the largest number of votes for the respective offices shall be declared duly elected; provided, however, that when more than thirteen candidates have so accepted nominations for Governor not more than two candidates residing in any one State may be elected as Governors even though one or more defeated candidates therefrom shall each receive more votes than an elected candidate residing in some other State. The President will announce the names of those duly elected at the regular membership meeting of the Society. New officers and governors shall assume office upon their installation at the banquet held during the election year convention.

Section 9. In the absence of the President at any meeting, the 1st Vice President shall preside. In the absence of both the President and the 1st Vice President, the 2nd Vice President, the Immediate Past President or a former President shall preside (in the order named). In the absence of the Secretary-Treasurer at any meeting, a former Secretary or a Temporary Secretary may be delegated by the presiding officer to perform the duties of the Secretary.

Section 10. All officers and governors must be individual members in good standing who have attained the age of twenty-one years and who reside within the said Central States area. No member may be nominated for the

office of President unless he or she is or has been a member of the Governing Board. The President shall not be a candidate for re-election.

ARTICLE IV

COMMITTEES AND PERSONNEL

Section 1. In conducting the affairs of the Society, the President may appoint and discharge committees, Legal Counsel and other personnel but shall not obligate the Society for the payment of any compensation except with the approval of a majority of the Governing Board. Such appointments are made by the President or his successor in office.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS AND CONVENTIONS

Section 1. The Society shall meet in convention once each year.

Section 2. The Governing Board shall meet in session during each convention to conduct the affairs of the Society.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Governing Board may be called by the President. An interim meeting of the Governing Board shall be called by the President, and held approximately six (6) months after the Annual Convention, and within the CSNS area, preferably in conjunction with a State or Regional Convention.

Section 4. Members of the Governing Board shall each have one vote on any and all issues and a majority vote shall govern.

Section 5. A resolution may be adopted by mail, provided that a copy thereof must first be mailed to all members of the Governing Board and such resolution must be approved by the mail vote of not less than two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the members of the Governing Board.

Section 6. The following order of business is included herein as a guide and convenience only. It is to be flexible for application as conditions warrant:

- (1) Call to order.
- (2) Introduction of visitors or celebrities.
- (3) Reading of Secretary's minutes of last meeting and acceptance thereof.
- (4) Reading of Treasurer's report and acceptance thereof.
- (5) Reading of reports of other officers and acceptance thereof.
- (6) Reading and acceptance of resignations.
- (7) Communications.
- (8) Unfinished business.
- (9) New business.
 - (a) Report of committees.
 - (b) Invitations for future conventions.
 - (c) Other business.
 - (d) Announcement of results of election of officers.

- (10) Introduction and installation of new officers.
- (11) Opportunity to present new business to or by the new officers.
- (12) Adjournment.

Section 7. The time and place of each annual convention shall be decided by the Governing Board after receiving written invitations from Numismatic Clubs who are members of the Society and wish to act as host to such conventions. The time of these conventions shall be the weekend nearest the end of April during which it is possible to obtain adequate hotel accommodations for the conduct of the convention; namely, rooms for exhibits, bourse, auctions, meetings and banquets, as well as a large number of rooms at the same hotel for out of town guests.

Section 8. The Host Club shall conform to, and work in liaison with the Governing Board as pertaining to rules governing conventions. Any person selected as General Chairman must be approved in advance by the Governing Board and may be removed at any time by the Governing Board. The Host Club shall furnish the Secretary-Treasurer with a record of paid registrations by states, a record of the names of the bourse dealers; a list of names of exhibitors, and, when requested, a list of names and addresses of all persons who registered with the Host Club convention committee.

ARTICLE VI

EXHIBITS AND AWARDS

Section 1. Exhibits may be made at Central States Conventions in accordance with such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the Governing Board from time to time.

Section 2. Exhibitors in competition for awards must be members in good standing of the Central States Numismatic Society. Exhibits, not in competition, are welcome from any numismatist.

Section 3. Awards shall be provided by the host club of such type and number as may be determined by them, with the approval of the Governing Board. The "Best-in-Show" award will be provided by the Governing Board out of funds of the Society or may be donated by any club, organization or individual with the approval of the Governing Board.

ARTICLE VII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. The By-Laws may be amended by the Governing Board, except for amendments relating to the election or eligibility for office of officers and governors.

Section 2. Amendments to the Constitution, and/or amendments to the By-Laws relating to the election or eligibility for office of officers and governors, shall be presented by the Governing Board in writing to the membership either by publication in the last regular issue of The Centinel published prior to the annual convention or by written notice to the membership mailed at least ten days prior to the commencement of the annual conven-

tion, at which time such amendments shall be voted upon. When voted upon, a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present and voting shall be effective to accomplish any such amendment, except as otherwise provided in Article 11, Section 7 of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VIII

PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. The Central States Numismatic Society shall issue a periodical to be known as "The Centinel."

Section 2. An Editor shall be appointed by the Governing Board for a period of two (2) years beginning in 1960.

Section 3. The name and address of the Editor shall be noted on all publications and stationary of the Central States Numismatic Society.

Section 4. "The Centinel" will be published quarterly.

Section 5. Any other publication and/or advertisements connected in any way with the Central States organization, must have the approval of the Governing Board except that the Publicity Chairman of any Central States Convention may submit publicity releases to newspapers and other periodicals without such approval unless otherwise notified by the Secretary-Treasurer in which case approval must be obtained.

ARTICLE IX

DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, its assets shall be given to the American Numismatic Association to be used for numismatic educational purposes.

For a membership application, contact:

Marjorie Owen

Secretary-Treasurer

Central States Numismatic Society

P. O. Box 65336

West Des Moines, Iowa 50265

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THE COINFIDENCE CORNER

by Bill Quarles

In past **Centinel** features we've approached the subject of counterfeit and altered coin detection primarily from the standpoint of learning to recognize the diagnostic characteristics of genuine coins. While photos of spurious coins have been shown, we tried to place the greatest emphasis on the characteristics of the genuine item.

Genuine coins come from only one source, the official government agency authorized to strike them. Counterfeit or altered coins of a given date or mintmark might come from many unauthorized sources, however. To

learn the specific diagnostic points of each individual counterfeit would obviously be a much more difficult task than concentrating on the genuine.

Some of the members have written and asked us to discuss the specific characteristics of counterfeit gold coins. This month's column includes a number of photos of both genuine and counterfeit gold.

Photo #1 is a counterfeit 1908 \$5 gold piece. Note the numerous tooling marks inside the rim of the coin. Photo #2 of a counterfeit 1911 \$10 gold piece shows similar tooling marks on

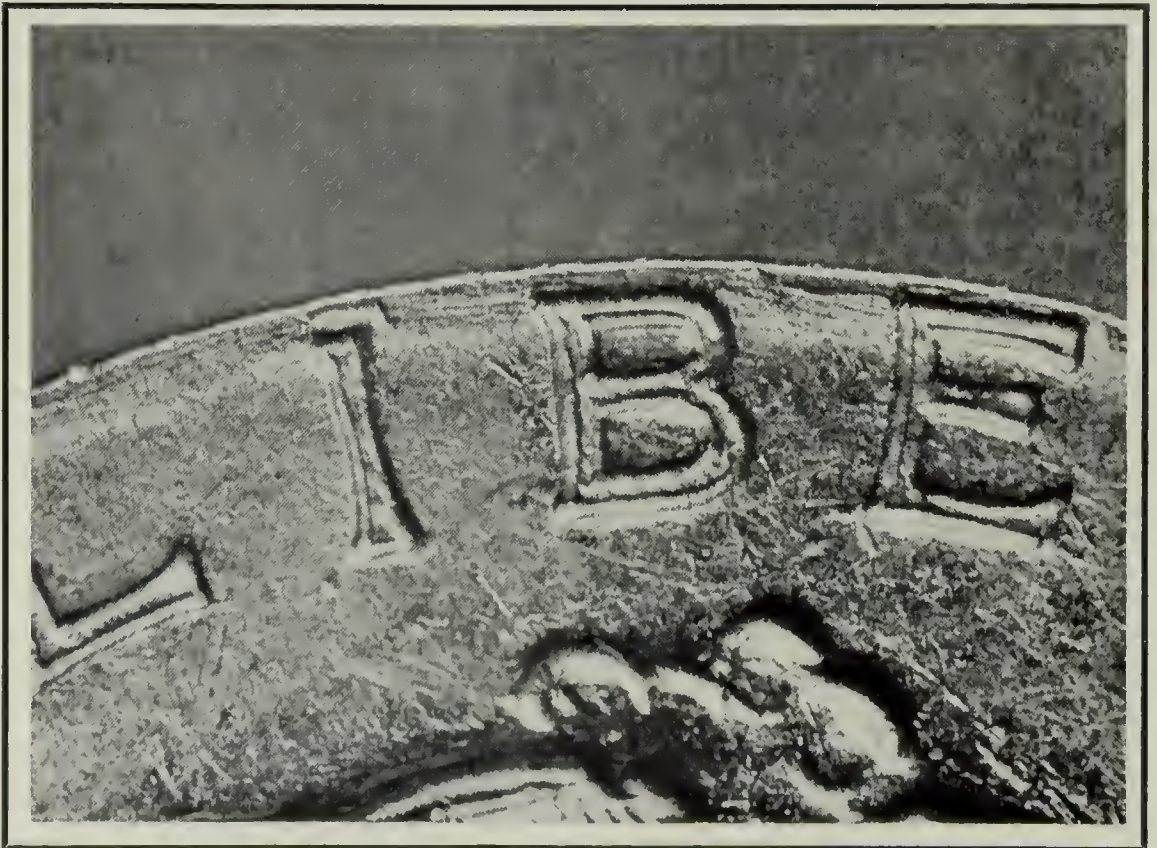


Photo #1 — Counterfeit \$5 1908 Gold

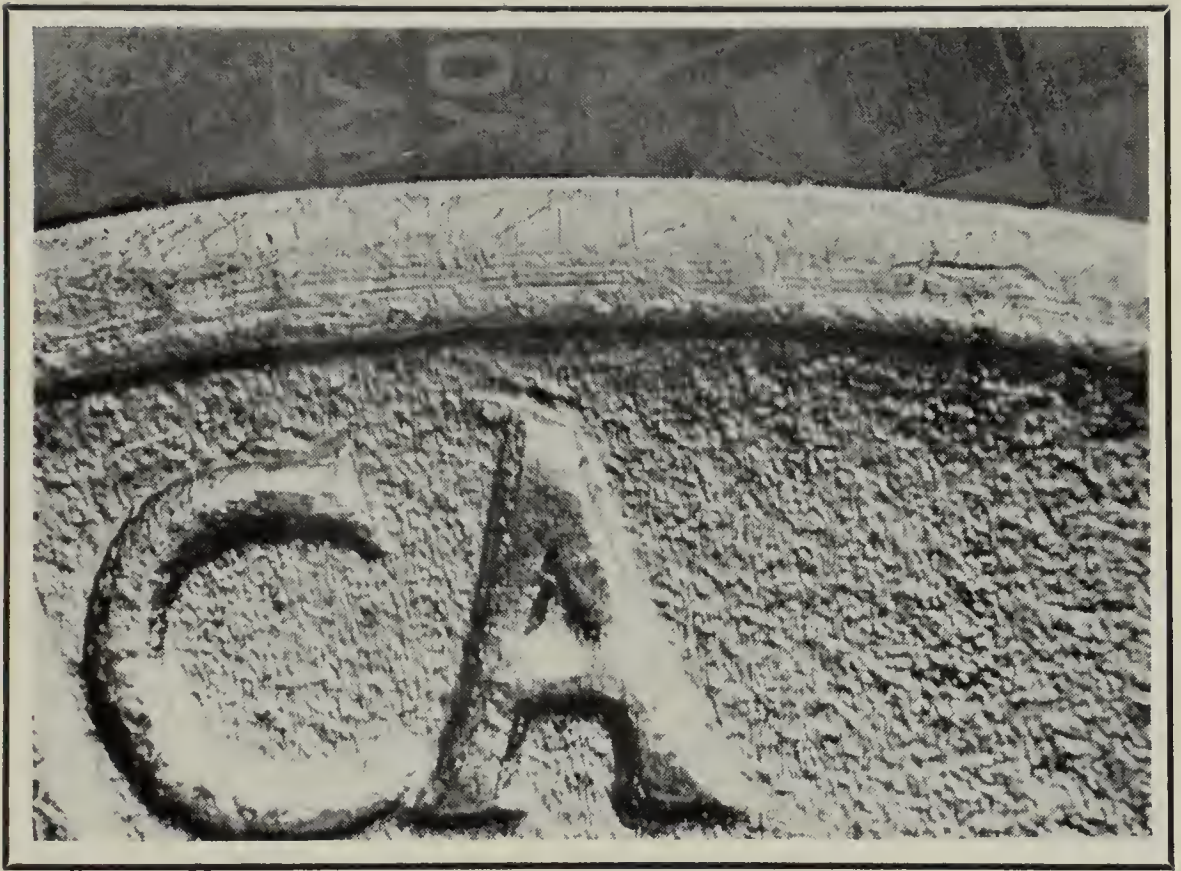


Photo #2 — Counterfeit \$10 1911 Gold

the rim. In general, one should be suspicious of such tooling.

Photo #3 shows a counterfeit 1906 \$5 gold piece. Note the shape of the stars in front of the chin. Observe how poorly formed they are, reminding one more of flowers than stars. In addition, look at the denticles around the rim of the coin. They, too, are irregularly formed, some being nearly rectangular in shape, while others show a distinct rounding. Those two points, poorly formed stars and irregularly shaped denticles, are common problems with counterfeit gold.

Photo #4 shows a genuine 1856 \$3 gold piece. Contrast the regular and uniform shape of the denticles around the rim in the upper portion of this photo with the general irregularity seen in the denticles of Photo #3.

Photo #5 depicts a counterfeit 1854 Type 2 \$1 gold piece. Again, look at the irregularly shaped denticles. This

coin also shows poorly formed and irregular letters, as well as numerous pimples and depressions in the field.

Photo #6 shows a counterfeit 1854 \$1 gold piece. Note the soft rounded letters and the missing design details. Below the "5" and "4" in the date there are numerous small pimples in the field. The presence of marks such as these is definite cause for suspicion.

Photo #7 again focuses on a counterfeit 1854 \$1 gold piece. Note the denticles around the rim. They are so poorly formed as to be almost one continuous blob of metal. Look, also, at the letters and see how several have numerous pits and pock marks. This particular coin also shows a heavy raised line in the field, something to be quiet suspicious of.

This has been a sampling of some of the things to look for in gold. It is by no means a complete survey of all problems to look for in U. S. gold, but

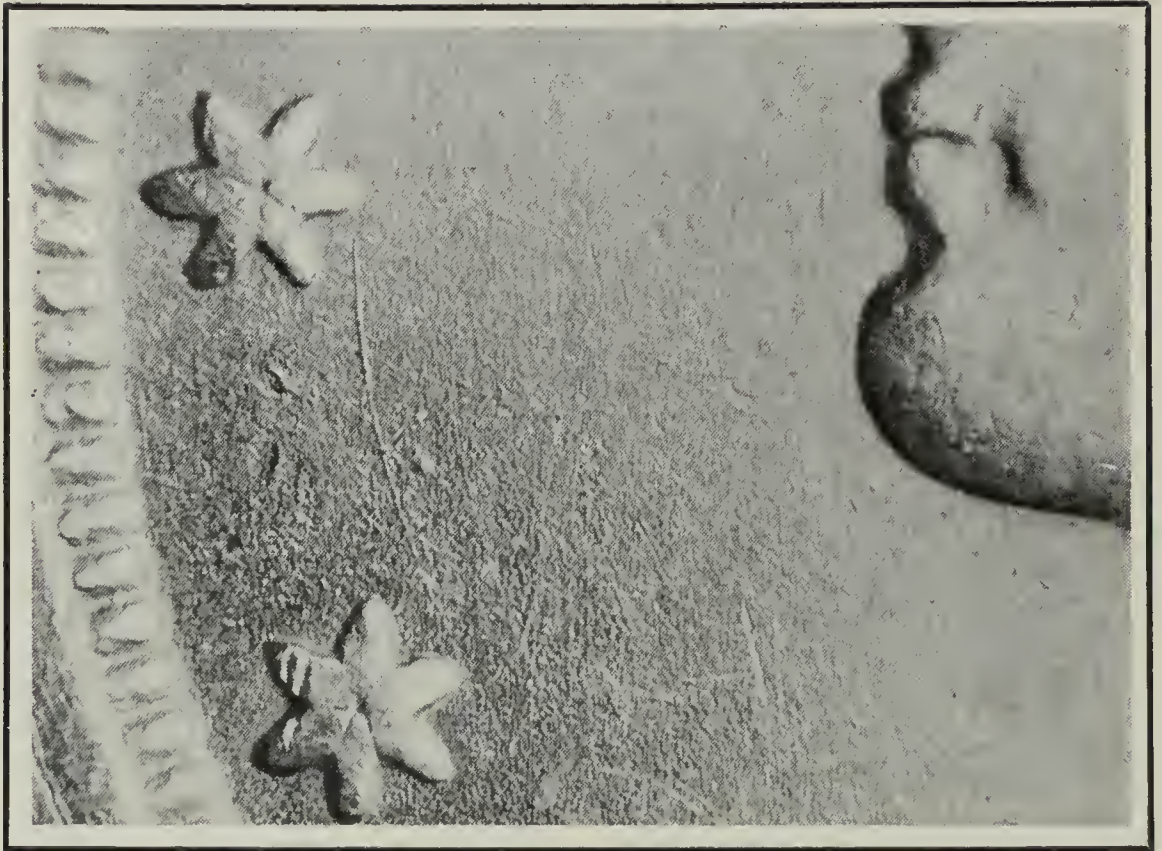


Photo #3 — Counterfeit \$5 1906 Gold

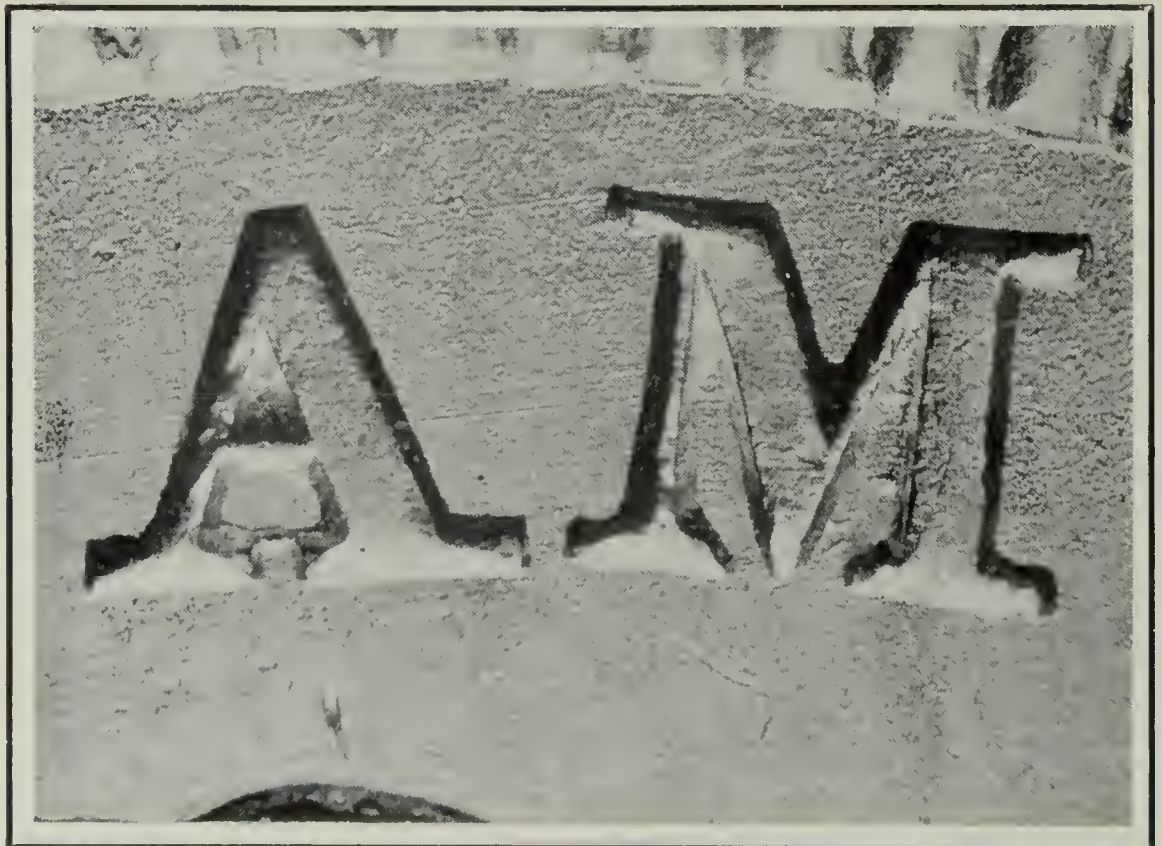


Photo #4 — Genuine \$3 1856 Gold

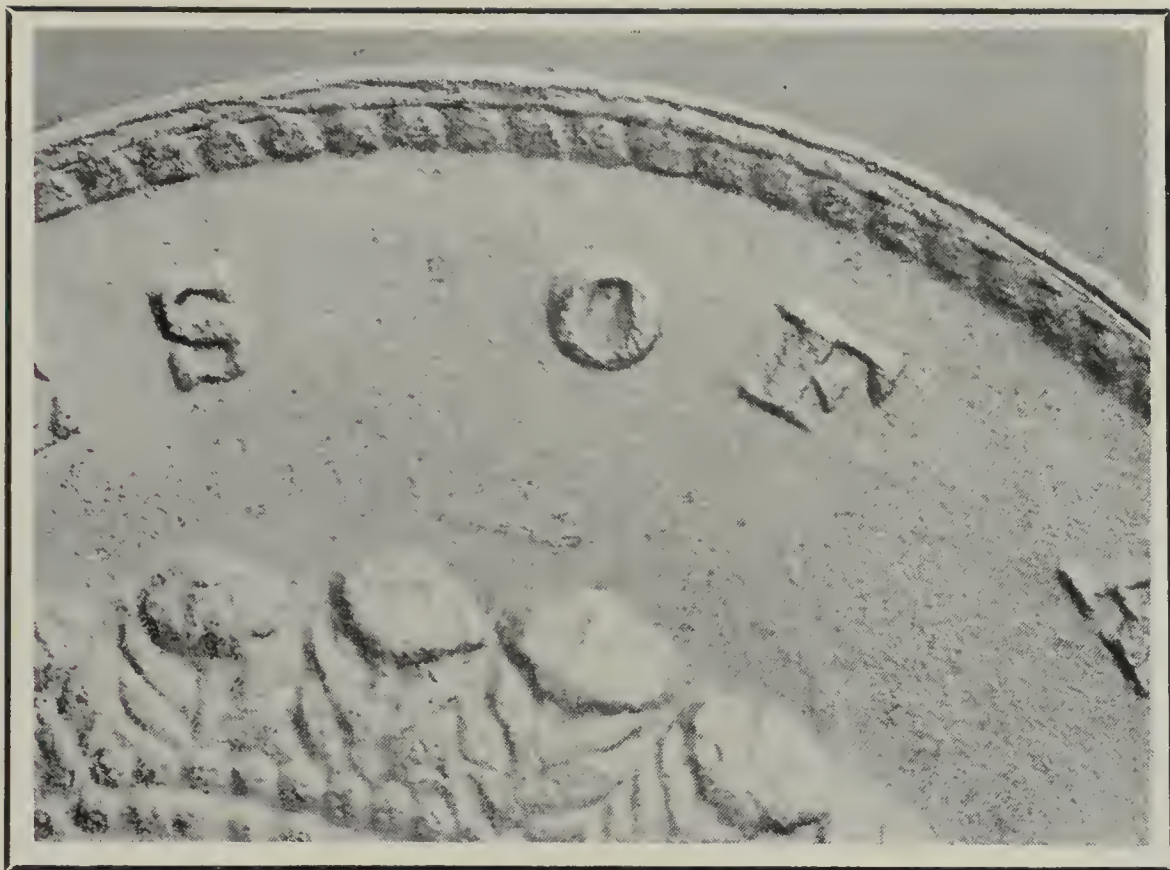


Photo #5 — Counterfeit \$1 1854 Gold

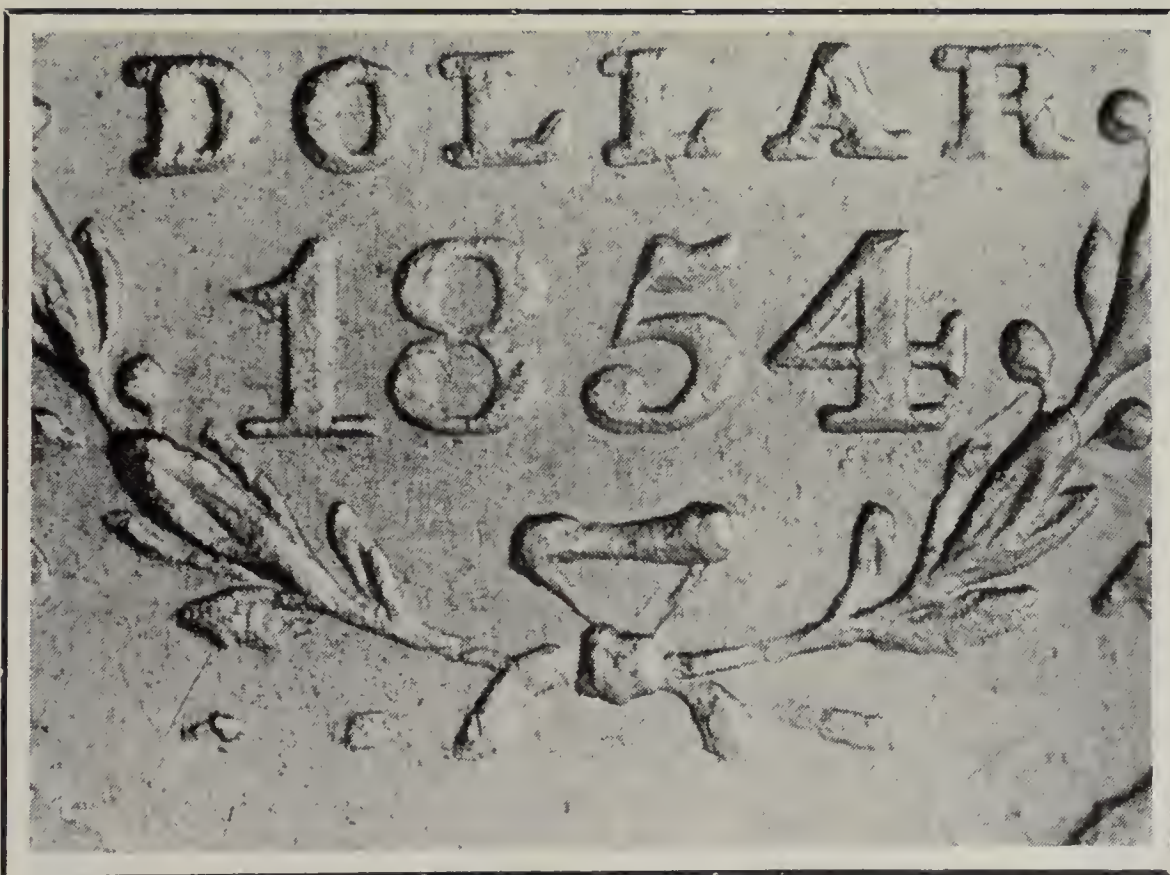


Photo #6 — Counterfeit \$1 1854 Gold

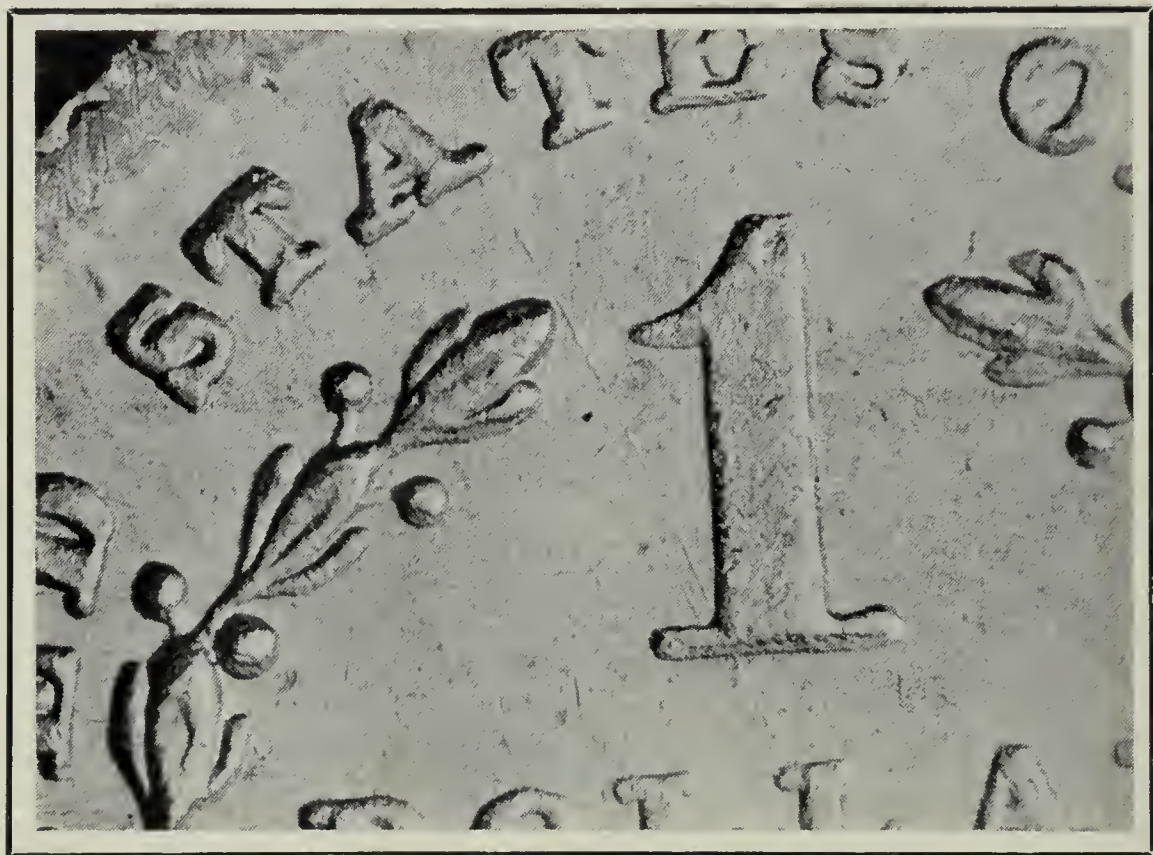


Photo #7 — Countfeit \$1 1854 Gold

it will give you a fair idea of some things to think about.

When considering the purchase of gold coins, as a general rule circulated pieces in the F to XF range are usually genuine. It is the AU to Unc. coin, lustrous but with details a bit on the weak side, that you should examine with extra care. \$1, \$2½, \$3, and the \$10 Indian are probably the most commonly counterfeited U. S. gold, with the \$1 and \$3 at the top of the list.

When one remembers that the goal of the counterfeiter is to reap the maximum gain from his operation, this is actually quite logical. The \$1 and \$3 gold have a relatively high numismatic value vis-a-vis their inherent bullion content. Thus, the counterfeiter can use real gold for his product and realize a greater percentage gain for his efforts than if he would concentrate on the \$20 Liberty, which generally trades at a lower multiple of its bullion content.

One way to protect yourself from

purchasing counterfeit gold is to have the dealer send the coin directly to the American Numismatic Association Certification Service, 818 North Cascade, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901, with an agreement that your purchase will be completed only if the coin is certified as genuine. Another source of certification papers for coins is the International Numismatic Society Authentication Bureau, P. O. Box 19386, Washington, D. C. 20036. Both INS and ANACS issue photo certificates with coins they determine to be genuine.

Special thanks is due to the American Numismatic Association Certification Service for permission to reprint their copyrighted photographs used to illustrate this article.

— Bill Quarles

The Walking Liberty Half Dollar was designed by A. A. Weinman, whose initials can be found on the reverse of the coin under the tip of the eagle's wing feathers.

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THE YN PAGE



In my last column, I focused on the educational value of numismatic auction catalogues. This month I'd like to continue on the auction theme and discuss some of the mechanics behind an auction.

Basically, auctions can be divided into two main categories — those permitting mail bids only and those involving both mail and in-person or "floor bidding."

The auction house, beginning many months prior to the actual sale date, will solicit consignments from individuals interested in selling their material. The lots consigned, in many cases supplemented by items actually owned by the auction house itself, will then be organized in a catalogue designed to present the material to its best advantage and thus generate the highest possible price for the consignor.

The auction house is compensated for its time and expertise by deducting a percentage commission from the price realized for a lot and forwarding the net balance to the consignor. Until the recent past, this was generally the only charge levied by U. S. numismatic auction houses. In the last few years, however, many, but not all U. S. houses have started charging the buyer a commission also.

Whether the buyer actually ultimately pays this commission is subject to debate, as it is a simple matter for him to simply adjust his bid downward to compensate for the buyer's charge and in so doing transfer the actual burden of the fee to the seller.

Before the actual sale date, the auction house sends catalogues to its customers and makes the auction lots available for physical inspection at its offices, and sometimes also at major coin shows prior to the sale.

For a sale involving mail bids only, a closing date is set in the catalogue for the receipt of bids and the bids are then tabulated and entered in the "bid book" maintained by the auction house.

Typically, the highest bid will be reduced to a set percentage above the second highest bid. If, for example a lot generates three bids of, say, \$90, \$100, and \$150, the highest bidder would be awarded the lot for \$110, a slight advance over his closest competitor.

Whether an individual auction house follows this practice will be spelled out in the "Terms of Sale" which appear near the front of the catalogue.

The "Terms of Sale" detail quite precisely the conditions under which

the sale is conducted and should **always** be read carefully by bidders.

For a sale which also involves in-person or "floor" bidding, the "bid book" is also kept for bids received prior to the sale from persons unable to attend. On the actual sale date, the lots are then opened near the second high mail bid, and then awarded to either the high mail or floor bidder.

If a lot has the same three mail bids mentioned above — \$90, \$100 and \$150 — it would open to the floor bidders at about \$110. If floor bidding stopped at \$130, the high mail bidder would win the lot at \$140, again a slight advance over his nearest competitor.

For a floor bidder to win the lot, it would be necessary to go above the high mail or "book" bid of \$150.

Sometimes the high mail bid, rather than being submitted by an actual purchaser, is really a "reserve" bid placed by the consignor to protect his lot from selling too low. Then too, a floor bidder might actually own an item he bids on, again for the purpose of forcing the bidding above what he regards as an unacceptably low level.

One major difference between bidding in person and by mail is that floor bidders, since they are presumed to have the opportunity to examine lots prior to a sale, almost never are given a return privilege. Mail bidders, at least those who did not view lots before the sale, are usually given a specific time period during which they can return material.

The details of the return privilege are also spelled out in the "Terms of Sale," another reason to carefully study that section of the catalogue.

Auctions are an interesting part of the numismatic scene. The better catalogues are good reference books. The sales themselves can have a wide range of material — some will sell at healthy prices, encouraging future consignments and future sales, while others will sell at bargain levels, attracting bidders to keep coming back.

Even if you attend without the intention of actually bidding, a major coin auction can be a fascinating experience to witness.

— Shawn Duthie

SHOW CALENDAR

Show Chairmen are invited to send announcements of upcoming coin shows in the Central States region. The Show Calendar is intended to assist collectors and dealers in planning their show attendance. It is also designed to aid show sponsors in avoiding date conflicts. Show dates will be listed up to 24 months in advance and show sponsors are encouraged to submit dates for future shows through December of 1984. Please include the city where the show will be held, official name of show, show dates and location, as well as the name, address, and phone number of the show or bourse chairman. Send to: Kevin Foley, P. O. Box 589, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

DAYTON, OHIO — NOVEMBER 5 - 7, 1982

Semi-Annual Fall Greater Dayton Coin Expo, Dayton Convention Center, 5th and Main. Ron Crouch, 188 Lynnhaven Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45431. (Host to CSNS Board of Governors interim meeting.)

ROCHESTER, MINNESOTA — NOVEMBER 13 - 14, 1982

Greater Hiawathaland Coin and Stamp Show. Mayo Civic Auditorium, 30 SE 2nd Avenue. Gerald Swanson, Box 565, Rochester, Minn. 55901.

SHAKER HEIGHTS, OHIO — NOVEMBER 12 - 14, 1982

Greater Cleveland Area Coin Show, Stouffer's Somerset Inn, 3550 Northfield Road. Ray Wasosky, Box 6, McKean, Pennsylvania 16426.

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN — NOVEMBER 26 - 28, 1982

Michigan State Numismatic Society 27th Fall Coin Show and Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel. MSNS, P. O. Box 2014, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI — FEBRUARY 25 - 27, 1983

Greater America Coin Fair, Marriott Motor Hotel, I-70 at Lambert International Airport. Bill Armstrong, Martin World Coin Company, 327 Northwest Plaza, St. Ann, Missouri 63074.

DAYTON, OHIO — MARCH 18 - 20, 1983

11th Semi-Annual Greater Dayton Coin Expo, Dayton Exposition and Convention Center, 5th and Main. Ron Crouch, 188 Lynnhaven Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45431. (513) 254-9589

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — MARCH 25 - 27, 1983

Numismatists of Wisconsin Annual Coin Show and Convention, hosted by South Shore Coin Club, MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn Streets. Robert Krueger, 3159 South 13th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216. (414) 643-5775.

RACINE, WISCONSIN — APRIL 17, 1983

Racine Numismatic Society Annual Coin Show, Racine Sheraton Inn. Bill Mross, Box 21, Racine, Wisconsin 53401.

PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN — MAY 13 - 15, 1983

Metropolitan Detroit Area Renaissance Coin Show. Plymouth Hilton Inn, 14707 Northville Road. Fred Oliver, Box 491, Garden City, Mich. 48135. (313) 729-2118

CLEVELAND, OHIO — JUNE 3 - 5, 1983

1983 Metropolitan Cleveland Coin Show. Cleveland Hilton South, 6200 Quarry Lane. Fred Bart, Box 35134, Cleveland, Ohio 44135. (216) 267-3178

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA — JUNE 17 - 19, 1983

Indiana State Numismatic Association Annual Coin Show and Convention, Indiana Convention Center, 100 South Capitol Avenue. Jerry Lebo, Box 44337, Indianapolis Indiana 46204. (317) 637-5116.

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN — JULY 29 - 31, 1983

1983 Mid America Coin Show, MECCA Convention Center, 4th and Kilbourn Streets. Kevin Foley, Box 589, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201. (414) 282-2388.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS — SEPTEMBER 9 - 11, 1983

Illinois Numismatic Association Coin Convention, Continental Regency Hotel, 500 Hamilton, Boulevard. Joe Mileham, B & J Coin Shop, 3123 South Dirksen Parkway, Springfield, Illinois 62703. (217) 529-6277

HOPKINS, MINNESOTA — OCTOBER 8 - 9, 1983

Minnesota Organization of Numismatists Annual Coin Show and Convention, Hopkins House. Jerry Swanson, Box 565, Rochester, Minn. 55901.

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN — NOVEMBER 25 - 27, 1983

Michigan State Numismatic Society 28th Fall Coin Show and Convention, Hyatt Regency Hotel. MSNS, Box 2014, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

RECURRING SHOWS

Chicago, Illinois — Gaslight Coin Show, 1st Sunday of the month, Leaning Tower YMCA, 6300 West Touhy. Ken Saville, Gaslight Coins, 1334 Waukegan, Road, Glenview, Illinois 60025.

Rosemont (Chicago), Illinois — 2nd Sunday of every month. N. O. I. S. E. Monthly Coin Show. Ramada O'Hara Inn, Higgins and Mannheim Roads. Joseph Irmen, Box 424, Wood Dale, Illinois 60191.

Monroe, Michigan — Monroe Coin Show, 2nd Sunday of the month, Holiday Inn near I-75 Dixie Highway exit. Frenchie's Coin and Stamp Mart, 423 West Front Street, Monroe, Michigan 48161.

Cincinnati, Ohio — Third Sunday Monthly Coin and Collectables Show (Auction at 3:30 p.m.). American Legion Hall, 11100 Winton Road, Greenhills, Ohio. Gary Perkins, P. O. Box 39301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45239.

Columbus, Ohio — Second Sunday Coin Show. Holiday Inn North, I-71 and Route 161. Craig E. Heilman, P. O. Box 02131, Columbus, Ohio 43202 (614-888-1759).

Toledo, Ohio — Fourth Sunday of the month. Blue Ribbon Coin and Stamp Show. Legion Hall, 206 South Byrne Road. John Sheets, Sr., P. O. Box 7115, Toledo, Ohio 43615.

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LEGAL TENDER

by Bill Mross

With this issue, **The Centinel** continues its numismatic legal advice column. The author, attorney Bill Mross of Racine, Wis., is currently serving as President of the Racine Numismatic Society. Readers should remember that the advice in this feature is not intended to take the place of contact with your attorney in the event a problem similar to one covered in this column might arise.

The answers Bill gives are based on Wisconsin law, which may not yield the same results as the law in your own state. Also, what may seem to the lay person to be trifling differences in the facts of a case may in fact have a significant bearing on the outcome of actual litigation.

If you have any questions you'd like to see discussed in a future "Legal Tender" feature, please write to: Bill Mross, P. O. Box 21, Racine, Wisconsin 53401.

1.) Dear Legal Tender: In his will, which was drawn up ten years ago, my father specified that his coin collection, which has a present value of \$125,000 - 150,000, was to be sold and the proceeds divided equally between his three children. My oldest brother, however, has physical possession of the collection and refuses to turn it over to the executor of the estate, claiming that Father orally gave him all the coins three years prior to his recent death. Neither our father nor my brother ever said anything about this during Father's lifetime. What factors would a court consider in deciding a case like this? — R. L., Dayton, Ohio.

Dear R. L.: This is a situation where I'm going to have to hide behind Wisconsin law a bit. I did go to college in Ohio, but I never had anything to do

with its legal system. Law as a general body is often quite similar from place to place (with a nip here and a tuck there), so I would think that you would have something out your way that is comparable with what I am about to tell you.

Either you or the executor (preferably the executor) should refer this matter to probate court without delay. Your beloved sibling would then be ordered before the judge to account for this. The production of evidence can be compelled and witnesses can be subpoenaed. The court is then empowered to make such orders as the evidence may justify. Suit can be brought to reach the property and include it in the estate.

Your brother does have possession of the collection — this would count in his favor. The oral nature of this situation makes it suspect, however.

Section 885.16 of the Wisconsin Statutes (the so-called "Dead Man's Statute") precludes a party to the case or a person in his/her own behalf or interest from testifying as a witness concerning a transaction or communication by him/her personally with the decedent so long as the opposite party derived their title from the deceased. This holds unless the other side of the case "opens the door" by putting in evidence about the communication or transaction — and then only within the scope of the evidence that has been put in. The purpose of his law is to prevent every Tom, Dick, and Harry from plundering Uncle George's estate by coming to court and stating that Uncle George gave him the moon and the stars when Uncle George isn't around to say otherwise.

You probably have a good case unless your brother can come up with a

witness to the alleged transaction who has no interest in the matter. Your brother would not be allowed to testify about the transaction himself unless you were the one to raise it in court.

2.) Dear Legal Tender: I purchased a coin from a dealer in another state that turned out to be counterfeit and he refuses to refund my money. The amount in question is \$250 and I've learned that involving an attorney would cost more than the money I could recover. What do you suggest? — J. K., Tucson, Arizona.

Dear J. K.: This is an unfortunate situation that is actually quite common. Legal fees are high because law is an expensive business to be involved in. About a third of the money that a lawyer takes in has to be devoted to payment of office overhead. Then the attorney has to pay taxes, make some provisions for a pension, health insurance, etc., etc. (many of the things that are available to other people through their employers).

And we all need to eat, have a place to live, and keep the car running. We also have to remember that a lawyer goes to school for a few years — and during this time has to pay tuition and books. The prospective attorney also is losing money by not being in the labor force during this time.

Well, away from my sermon and on to your problem. I would recommend that you lodge a complaint with ANA, PNG, CSNS, or whatever numismatic body might be appropriate. You undoubtedly note that a list periodically appears in the *Numismatist* of dealers who have been disciplined by the ANA for unethical activities. It might also be worthwhile to voice your concerns to the advertising department of the periodical that carried the dealer's advertisement.

For the future, it would be wise to deal with professional numismatists who are members of organizations that police their membership to prevent situations like this and compel

them to make amends when things do go awry.

3.) Dear Legal Tender: I recently left 20 coins having a total value of \$4000 on consignment with a local coin shop. The dealer prepared a contract listing each coin by date and mint-mark, as well as condition, and assigned an inventory number to each coin. This number was written on each coin's holder and also on the contract, so there would be no question about which coins were mine.

A few days ago I read in the paper that the dealer had closed his shop and filed for bankruptcy. According to the article, creditors were likely to get only 40 cents on the dollar. Do I have a right to simply recover my coins in the course of the bankruptcy proceedings, or will I have to wait for a partial settlement like all the other creditors? — C. L., address withheld.

Dear C. L.: It's nice to have questions that don't compel me to hedge with Wisconsin law responses that may not be helpful to you. Bankruptcy is a federal matter, and the law applies nationwide. Each area may, however, have its own way of interpreting the law — and this can result in some vagaries.

You should be able to recover your things with no problem. Both you and the dealer should be complimented on the business-like manner in which you handled this transaction. The bankruptcy papers that were filed should have a section that asks the debtor if he holds any property in which anyone else has an interest. Hopefully, your things would appear therein. Section 541 of the Bankruptcy Act indicates that property of the estate that is subject to administration is composed of "all legal or equitable interests of the debtor in property as of the commencement of the case".

If documentation can be produced to show that the debtor had no interest in the property (merely possession of it), then it would seem that the items

would never become involved in the proceedings. Section 725 of the same law states that during the case the trustee, after notice and a hearing, shall dispose of any property in which an entity other than the estate of the debtor has an interest that has not been otherwise disposed of. The explanatory note to this section says that this is intended to let the court assure that the goods are returned to a consignor.

I would recommend that you not retain an attorney at this time. You should instead determine the identity

of the trustee in the case and approach him or her directly about getting your things back. This official should be furnished with an explanation of the situation and with a copy of your contract with the dealer.

The trustee would then be likely to simply abandon any interest in your coins and return them to you. If the trustee is uncooperative, you should hire a lawyer to take the matter before the appropriate bankruptcy judge.

'Til next time ! !
Bill Mross, "Legal Tender"

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